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TRIP REPORT:

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSION

Prepared by: Patrick L. Coleman

Dates of In-Country Work:

September 26-27 and October 4, 1985

Population Communication Services
Population Information Program
The Johns Hopkins University
624 North Broadway
Baltimore, Maryland 21205
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Executive Summary

The Johns Hopkins University/Population Communication Services (JHU/PCS) Regional Program Coordinator, Patrick L. Coleman, visited the Dominican Republic from September 26-27 and October 4, 1985. The scope of work included participation in the Seminar on the Contraceptive Prevalence Survey on men and the Education and Communication Workshop for men's family planning programs.

The survey was conducted by the Consejo Nacional de Población y Familia (CONAPOFA) with support from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the Westinghouse Health Systems. The data indicate that men are more receptive to family planning in the Dominican Republic than in some other Latin American countries. Men, especially young men, do not seem to have information about contraceptives and where to get them.

The Communication and Education Workshop began the communication strategy development process for men's programs and pointed out the need to collect additional data which had not been collected in the initial survey. An integrated mass media and interpersonal communication approach was recommended.

The local IPPF affiliate, PROFAMILIA, is interested in JHU/PCS support for its communication activities. They use radio, television and print materials to reinforce their interpersonal communication efforts. It was explained to PROFAMILIA that JHU/PCS has no funds to support this project at the present time.

CONAPOFA also requested JHU/PCS support for its communication activities. CONAPOFA is interested in following up this initial activity in male responsibility by developing a men's program in the Dominican Republic. CONAPOFA was also informed that JHU/PCS support depends on funding actions in Washington. JHU/PCS could not even utilize Mission funds unless the current ceiling is raised.

USAID/Dominican Republic is developing a four-year support project. The project will seek to facilitate the development of a national population policy as well as support communication activities.

It is recommended that:

- 1) JHU/PCS seek additional funding from AID to continue work in the Dominican Republic; and
- 2) The Dominicans hold a high-level strategy workshop to outline the elements needed in developing a male involvement family planning communication program.

Introduction

The Johns Hopkins University/Population Communication Services (JHU/PCS) Regional Program Coordinator, Patrick L. Coleman, visited the Dominican Republic September 26-27 and October 4, 1985. The purpose of the trip was to participate in the Seminar on the Contraceptive Prevalence Survey on men and the Communication and Education Workshop for programs involving men in family planning. JHU/PCS sponsored the participation of Luis Alberto Marinho de Azeveda, ABEPF/Brazil, Cesar Saldivar, FEMAP/Mexico, and Gustavo Merizalde, PROFAMILIA/Colombia in these events. Comments and suggestions by these JHU/PCS-sponsored participants are also incorporated into this report.

Seminar on Contraceptive Prevalence Survey

The first day's activities in the Dominican Republic focused on the presentation of findings of a study sponsored by the Consejo Nacional de Población y Familia (CONAPOFA), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and Westinghouse Health Systems. The survey covered men from ages 15-55. The most startling findings of the seminar were that:

- 1) Dominican men do not marry until the age of 25 or later. Before that time they have very casual relationships but nothing on a permanent basis;
- 2) younger men know very little about contraceptives and seldom use them;
- 3) men desire fewer children than they currently have;
- 4) vasectomy is virtually unknown;
- 5) men have a low knowledge level of where contraceptives can be obtained;
- 6) almost 50 percent of couples in a stable relationship are unprotected from unwanted pregnancies;
- 7) the primary reasons men oppose family planning are for health and religious reasons; and

- 8) approximately 15 percent of the male population between the ages of 15 and 55 would like to use contraceptives.

The survey findings, methodology and sample were discussed by Dominican experts. The general consensus was the survey and its resulting report were very well done. Basic information exists for the development of a family planning program directed at men in the Dominican Republic.

Communication and Education Workshop for Male Family Planning Programs

The second day of the CONAPOFA/UNFPA-sponsored event was coordinated with JHU/PCS. The purpose of the second day's activities was to take the findings presented in the first day and begin the development of a communication strategy for male responsibility programs in the Dominican Republic. The second day's structure was: 1) presentation by CONAPOFA of their male responsibility programs in the past; 2) presentation by PROFAMILIA (Dominican Republic) on its communication program; 3) presentation by JHU/PCS representative (Patrick L. Coleman) on the methodology for developing communication programs and presentation of a male responsibility slide set of other (worldwide) male responsibility programs; and 4) presentation of programs in Mexico, Colombia and Brazil. The afternoon was allowed for group discussions with each one of the foreign visitors--Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, U.S.A.--presiding and directing each group and then a final session where all the groups presented their information and then it was summarized into basic recommendations by CONAPOFA representatives. (The program is Attachment B.)

The second day sessions were attended by far fewer people--mainly specialists in communication and education activities in the Dominican Republic. Discussions were held based upon the process to follow in developing communication programs. It was agreed that a follow-up survey should be conducted by CONAPOFA to investigate certain areas which were not covered, or not covered in depth, during the initial survey. It was suggested that as a beginning phase of the research, a bibliographic search should be conducted to investigate the existing data on men's media habits. An integrated mass media interpersonal communication approach was recommended.

CONAPOFA was generally pleased with the outcome of the second day's activities and stated that this was the beginning of the development of a male responsibility program in the Dominican Republic.

PROFAMILIA

On October 4 I visited the offices of PROFAMILIA. Discussions were held with Magaly Caram de Alvarez, Executive Director, and Dennis Mota, Communication Director. Magaly described PROFAMILIA's role in the Dominican Republic in coordinating private-sector activities and working with CONAPOFA in coordinating public-private sector actions. Magaly expressed an interest in future collaboration with JHU/PCS in communication activities. I explained to her our current funding limitations and that at the present time we would be unable to undertake any further activities in the Dominican Republic. We agreed to exchange information and bibliographic materials.

Dennis Mota then gave me a tour of the facilities of PROFAMILIA and an explanation of the types of communication activities they carry out. PROFAMILIA has a small television studio. The studio also includes portable equipment for shooting exteriors. It is PROFAMILIA's hope to produce not only programs for themselves for distribution to commercial and public television stations, but also to use the video studio as a resource development tool by contracting outside business. PROFAMILIA also has a small audio studio which records programs for radio stations throughout the country. PROFAMILIA has a daily, Monday through Friday, radio program which is broadcast by four stations. It is entirely produced by PROFAMILIA. PROFAMILIA also has newspaper articles that are published in the Sunday newspaper. Over the last 15 years, PROFAMILIA has produced a series of print materials for users, the general public, opinion leaders and the medical community.

Consejo Nacional de Población y Familia

A tentative meeting had been set up with CONAPOFA representatives for the afternoon of October 4th. The meeting was cancelled due to a conflict of schedules. However, Leo Baez, CONAPOFA's Family Planning Coordinator, visited me at my hotel. Leo discussed his gratitude for the JHU/PCS participation in the seminar and expressed an interest in further collaboration with JHU/PCS in the future. I explained to him our financial limitations and that we had no plans at the present time to continue activities in the Dominican Republic. However, I reiterated our interest, if our funding situation should change, in continuing working with them.

Agency for International Development

During the first day of the survey data presentation, the Agency for International Development (AID) Health, Population and Nutrition Officer, Lee Hougan, requested a meeting with me on October 4th. Lee and I had worked together in Bolivia, and he felt that JHU/PCS cooperation and technical support for the Dominican organizations could be worthwhile.

Lee and I discussed the seminar and both were pleased with the professionalism and support for the idea of male responsibility programs in the Dominican Republic.

Lee stated that AID was preparing a project paper for Mission support to the Dominican Republic population program. For the period 1986-1990, AID is recommending an investment of \$4 million. The project will support the development of a national population policy and to strengthen an official high-level government committee which will coordinate national family planning activities. AID support will also be used for communication activities. I explained to Lee the current financial limitations of JHU/PCS but reiterated our interest, if our financial situation should change, in working with AID/Santo Domingo in this.

I suggested to Lee that the second day communication and education workshop should be seen as a beginning activity in developing a communication program. What was needed as a follow-up is a one- or two-week high-level strategy development meeting with representatives of CONAPOFA, PROFAMILIA and other pertinent organizations. If funding could be arranged, I stated JHU/PCS would be interested in developing this initial activity with AID and Dominican representatives.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Seminar on Contraceptive Prevalence Survey on men and the Communication and Education Workshop for men's family planning programs were successful events. The survey and the data presented were quite useful and demonstrated that there is less resistance to male participation in family planning programs than was anticipated. The workshop on communication and education began developing ideas for a communication program.

It is recommended that:

- 1) JHU/PCS seek additional funding for working in the Dominican Republic; and
- 2) The Dominican groups involved in family planning activities should consider as the next step a high-level strategy development workshop.

ATTACHMENT A

LIST OF CONTACTS

Consejo Nacional de Población y Familia (CONAPOFA)
Secretaria de Estado de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social
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Dominican Republic

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Dr. Ramon Portes Carasco
Leovigilado Baez
Margarita Baez

Executive Secretary
Family Planning Coordinator
IEC Department Director

Asociación Dominicana Pro Bienestar de la Familia (PROFAMILIA)
Calle Socorro Sanchez No. 64
Apartado Postal 1053
Santo Domingo, D.N.
Dominican Republic

Tel.: 682-9611

Magaly Caram de Alvarez
Dennis Mota

Executive Director
Communication Department Director

Agency for International Development
Embajada de los Estados Unidos
Santo Domingo, R.D.
Dominican Republic

Tel.: 682-2171

Lee R. Hougen

Health, Population, Nutrition
Officer

PROGRAMA

26 de septiembre, 1985

- 9:00 a 9:30 am. : Entrega de material e inscripciones
- 9:30 a 9:45 am. : Palabras de apertura
-Dr. Ramón Portes Carrasco
Secretario Ejecutivo del CONAPOFA
- 9:45 a 10:15 am. : Notas sobre la metodología para la ejecución del Proyecto Encuesta de Prevalencia del Uso de Anticonceptivos en Hombres (EPAH)
-Lic. Leovigildo Báez
Coordinador técnico-administrativo del Proyecto
- 10:15 a 10:45 am. : Muestra para la EPAH
-Dr. Alfredo Aliaga
Westinghouse Health Systems
- 10:45 a 11:00 am. : C A F E
- 11:00 a 11:30 am. : Preguntas y respuestas
- 11:30 a 11:50 am. : Algunas características socio-económicas y demográficas de los hombres dominicanos
-Miriam Mejía
Co-director técnico Proyecto EPAH
- 11:50 a 12:10 pm. : Preguntas y respuestas
- 12:10 a 12:30 pm. : Fecundidad masculina y actitud hacia el tamaño de la familia
-Bienvenida Rodríguez
Técnico del equipo Proyecto EPAH
- 12:30 a 12:50 pm. : Preguntas y respuestas
- 12:50 a 2:00 pm. : ALMUERZO
- 2:00 a 2:30 pm. : Conocimiento y uso de anticonceptivos en los hombres dominicanos
-Lic. Leovigildo Báez
- 2:30 a 2:50 pm. : Preguntas y respuestas
- 2:50 a 3:20 pm. : Actitudes del hombre frente a la planificación familiar, opiniones generales y otros aspectos investigados en la EPAH.
-Miriam Mejía
- 3:20 a 4:00 pm. : Preguntas y respuestas
- 4:00 a 4:30 pm. : C A F E

ATTACHMENT B

27 de septiembre, 1985

- 9:00 a 9:15 am. : Introducción a la temática del día
-Lic. Leovigildo Báez
- 9:15 a 9:35 am. : Programa de comunicación, educación e información en planificación familiar para hombres: la experiencia del CONAPOFA
-Lic. Margarita Báez de Corletto
Directora del Dpto. de Comunicación, Educación e Información del CONAPOFA
- 9:35 a 9:55 am. : Programa de comunicación, educación e información en planificación familiar para hombres: la experiencia de PROFAMILIA
-Lic. Denis Mota
Director Dpto. de Comunicaciones, PROFAMILIA
- 9:55 a 10:15 am. : Preguntas y respuestas
- 10:15 a 10:30 am. : C A F E
- 10:30 a 11:00 am. : Programa de comunicación, información y educación sobre paternidad responsable implementado por la Universidad Johns Hopkins
-Patrick L. Coleman
Coordinador Regional del Programa Servicio de Comunicación en Población
- 11:00 a 12:30 pm. : Programa de comunicación, información y educación sobre paternidad responsable: México, Honduras, Colombia y Brasil
-Lic. César Saldivar (México)
-Dr. Gustavo Merizalde (Colombia)
-Lic. Luís Alberto Marinho (Brasil)
-Lic. Lenin Flores (Honduras)
- 12:30 a 1:00 pm. : Preguntas y respuestas
- 1:00 a 2:00 pm. : ALMUERZO
- 2:00 a 3:30 pm. : Discusiones de grupo
- 3:30 a 3:45 pm. : C A F E
- 3:45 a 4:30 pm. : Presentaciones resultados grupos de discusiones
- 4:30 a 5:00 pm. : Plenaria